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INSIDE N.I.

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September, 1991 Applications for Membership: The following persons have applied for membership. If no written objections are received by December 1, 1991, their membership will become effective on that date.

2367-MT Gylfi Snorrason, Box 567, 602 Akureyri, Iceland
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1100BC - 1911AD)

2368-MT Herbert James, 48 River Road, Ostrander, Ohio 43061
(Great Britain & United Kingdom, Foreign Coins Minted
in U.S.)

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

I. Acknowledgement is made below to those who have donated material to the NI Library:

Clyde Hubbard

FB50.PorM:1989:MCMM

PORRUA, MIGUEL ANGEL (editor)

Primeras memorias de la casa de moneda de Mexico

Miguel Porrua and Clyde Hubbard introduce two early 19th century works on Mexican mints. The 1849, "Memoria presentada a la camara de diputados en 20 de Octubre del presente ano por el secretario de estado y del despacho de hacienda sobre la creacion y el estado actual de las casas de moneda de la republica"; and the 1857 Document No. 2 from the "Informe sobre la Acunacion en las casas de moneda de la republica."

Pub. 1989, 149pp, illus.

Prashant P. Kulkarni

KA85.Ku1P:1990:CBRN

KULKARNI, PRASHANT P.

Coinage of the Bhonsla rajas of Nagpur.

Pub. 1990, 261pp, illus.

Jack E. Lewis

AA50.DotR:1982:MEDN

DOTY, RICHARD G.

The Macmillan encyclopedic dictionary of numismatics.

Pub. 1982, 355pp, illus.

PL50.ManE:1968:TLKCA

MANDEL, EDGAR J.

Trial listing Korean charms and amulets.
Pub. 1968, 144pp, illus.

PG70.PicM:1975:NM

PICK, MONIKA

Der notgeld-mufti. Verzeichnis aller ausgabeorte der Deutschen notgeldscheine nach den Dr. Keller katalogen alphabetisch und nach zeitspannen geordnet.

Pub. 1975, 76pp, not illus.

KC30.HigF:R975:CNR

HIGGINS, FRANCIS C.

The Chinese numismatic riddle. A discovery of the identity of the astronomical and religious symbols of the "Temple Money" of the far East with those of Chaldaea, Babylonia, Ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome, the Aztecs of Mexico, the Incas of Peru, etc.

1975 reprint of 1910 work, 34pp, illus.

Timothy J. Orlik

PG70. SacJ:1990:NHKN/1

SACHSE, JORG

Das notgeld des heutigen kreises neustrelitz. 1. Teil:
Das notgeld des freistaates Mecklenburg-Strelitz.

Pub. 1990, 72pp, illus.

John L. Pieratt

KB70.CoJJ:1990:RFC

CORFIELD, JUSTIN J.

The royal family of Cambodia.

Pub. 1990, 52pp, illus. (Not numismatic)

II. In addition to the above we would also like to thank Jack Lewis and Robert Plemmons for their gifts of additional numismatic material to the NI Library.

Granvyl G. Hulse, Jr., Book Librarian
James D. Haley, Periodical Librarian

VIETNAM 2 DONG 1946 RIBBON VARIETIES

The 2 Dong 1946 of Vietnam can be found in numerous varieties. The ribbon bow on the obverse will be found in both a high and low position. Also the ribbon bow on the reverse will be found in a small and large ribbon. The figure "1" in the 1946 date is found in three varieties - no serif and two different serif types. There are also differences in the hair lines, eyes, wreath buds and the star in the center on the reverse. Anyone wanting a detailed study on this 2 Dong coin can obtain one from John L. Pieratt, 2635 S. Hydraulic, 32C, Wichita, KS 67216. A stamped self-addressed envelope would be appreciated.

THE ISRAEL PRUTA SERIES OF 5709 (1949)

Samuel Lachman, Haifa, Israel

Israel's coins are dated according to the Jewish calendar. The Jewish year begins in September/October. Any description of the coins has therefore to be based on these years. In the past, various writers have disregarded the difference of the three months, which caused ambiguous descriptions and the like.

The year on Israel's coins until 5741/1981 is expressed in three Hebrew letters, omitting the 5000, thus 5709 appears as 709 (Tav-Shin-Tet). See the explanatory table in the catalogs (notes 4, 9, 10).

The first ordinance concerning Israel's own currency is dated 11 Av 5708/16 August 1948 (Israel Official Gazette of 17 August 1948). The ordinance created the Israel Lira, equal to 1000 mils. The division of the Israel Lira into 1000 Prutot appears in the "Small Coinage Ordinance" dated 21 Kislev 5709/23 December 1948 (Gazette of 24 December 1948). The Jewish year 5709 began on 4 October 1948.

From the above, it is clear that the 25 Mil aluminum coins dated 5708 and 5709 were both struck in 1948, before the ordinance introducing the pruta was enacted. These coins were unsatisfactory, but due to the shortage of small change were placed into circulation on 7 Nisan 5709/6 April 1949 (Gazette of 11 April 1949). The coins circulated at the value of 25 prutot. They were withdrawn from circulation on 19 Av 5710/2 August 1950 (Gazette of 6 September 1950).

It is not known how far records of the period 1948-1954 are preserved, regarding the mintage of coins. During this period, the Anglo-Palestine Bank Ltd. acted as banker to the government. The name of the bank was changed in 1951 to Bank Leumi Le-Israel B.M. The Bank of Israel was founded by the law confirmed by the Israel Parliament on 25 Av 5714/24 August 1954 (Gazette of 8 Elul 5714/1 September 1954).

In view of the unsatisfactory coins produced locally, the Israel authorities ordered a series of 8 denominations from the "Imperial Metal Industries" (formerly Imperial Chemical Industries (Kynoch) Ltd., which was previously the King's Norton Metal Company, Birmingham, henceforth indicated as King's Norton). It has so far not been investigated as to what date the agreement to this effect was signed. It is also not known why the coins were ordered from a British mint. The above company subcontracted the minting of part of the ordered coins to "The Mint Birmingham, Ltd." (until 1879, Ralph Heaton & Sons, Birmingham, henceforth indicated as Heaton). It is not known if the subcontracting of the minting took place from the beginning of the striking of the coins, or at a later date. The reason for the subcontracting appears to have been caused by the considerable quantities ordered by the Royal Mint in London, which had both above mints strike coins for British East and West Africa. In 1949 both mints struck over 50 million coins each for Israel and these British possessions. For the latter, the Royal Mint struck in addition 123 million coins (1). The pressure at the Royal Mint was so acute that 12 Uhlhorn type coin presses were made in the Royal Mint workshops by 1950 (2).

The following dates of issue of the pruta series are the dates of the respective orders in the Israel Official Gazette (3):

<u>Denomination</u>	<u>Date of Issue</u>
50 pruta	10 Iyar 5709/9 May 1949
100 pruta	24 Iyar 5709/23 May 1949
10 pruta	24 Kislev 5710/15 December 1949
25 pruta	24 Kislev 5710/15 December 1949
250 pruta (copper-nickel)	26 Elul 5710/8 September 1950
1 pruta	8 Marcheshvan 5711/16 October 1950
5 pruta	3 Shvat 5711/12 December 1950
250 pruta (silver)	4 Iyar 5712/29 April 1952
500 pruta (silver)	4 Iyar 5712/29 April 1952

There may be differences of a day or two between the above dates and the actual ones. The issue of the 100 pruta coin appeared in the Israel newspaper "Davar" on 22 and 25 May 1949. Only two denominations were therefore issued in the year 5709, the year shown on the coins. The silver coins were not placed into circulation.

The following mintage figures were published by Sylvia Haffner (4):

<u>Denomination</u>	<u>Year of Minting</u>	<u>King's Norton</u>	<u>Heaton</u>
1 pruta	1950	1,784,000	2,500,000
	1951	876,000	
	1951 proofs	20,000	
	1953 proofs	5,000	
5 pruta	1950	632,000	1,566,000
	1951	4,388,000	3,434,000
	1951 proofs	20,000	
	1953 proofs	5,000	
10 pruta	1949	1,328,000	1,048,000
	1950	4,848,000	4,952,000
	1950 proofs	20,000	
	1951	1,180,000	1,500,000
	1952	72,000	
25 pruta	1949	1,360,000	1,360,000
	1950	1,140,000	1,140,000
	1950 proofs	20,000	
	1953	8,000,000	
50 pruta	1949	6,020,000	6,000,000
	1950 proofs	20,000	
100 pruta	1949	3,042,000	3,000,000
	1950 proofs		20,000
250 pruta	1950	496,000	524,000
Copper-Nickel	1952	120,000	
	1953	880,000	

<u>Denomination</u>	<u>Year of Minting</u>	<u>King's Norton</u>	<u>Heaton</u>
250 pruta	1951		18,175
Silver	1952		25,950
500 pruta	1951		15,025
Silver	1952		4,825
	1953		13,962

For unknown reasons, the proof coins passed into circulation together with the regular coins.

The alloys used for the coins are as follows:

<u>Denomination</u>	<u>Alloy</u>
1 pruta	96½% Aluminum, 3½% Magnesium (5)
5 and 10 pruta	Bronze, 95½% Copper, 3% Tin, 1½% Zinc (6)
25, 50, 100, 250 pruta	Copper-Nickel, 75% Copper, 25% Nickel
250, 500 pruta	0.500 Silver, 50% Silver, 40% Copper, 5% Zinc, 5% Nickel

Cooper (7) writes that British Dominions, which still had sterling silver coins in 1946, demonetized these and replaced them with the superseded British "quarternary" alloy of 50% silver, 40% copper, 5% zinc, and 5% nickel. Sweeny (8) found the same in the Birmingham records.

Weights and Diameters of the Coins

The descriptions by Kadman (9), Haffner (4), and Bertram and Weber (10) give particulars according to the metric system (rounded up). However, the coins were struck in England, and most likely English weights and measures applied to the coins at that time. Unfortunately this was not taken into consideration, and particulars were not recorded. It seems that Kadman was in possession of them at the time he wrote his book. He may have calculated the weights according to 0.064 g = 1 grain. It is not possible to arrive at satisfactory measures for the diameters in inches. In view of the allowed tolerance, the following list can only give approximate values in grains. The permitted variations for coins of this kind are at least ± 0.15 g in weight, and ± 0.15 mm in diameter(11).

<u>Denomination</u>	<u>Weights</u>		<u>Diameters</u>
	<u>Grains</u>	<u>Grammes</u>	<u>mm</u>
1 pruta	20	1.3	21
5 pruta	50	3.2	20
10 pruta	95	6.1	27
25 pruta	43-3/4	2.8	19.5
50 pruta	87-1/2	5.6	23.5
100 pruta	175	11.3	28.5

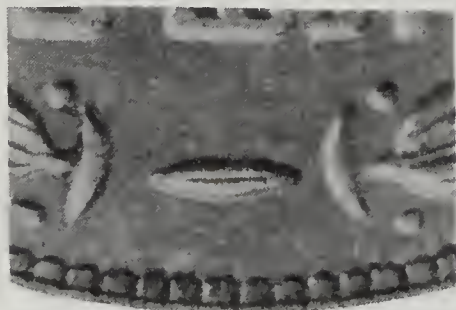
<u>Denomination</u>	<u>Weights</u>		<u>Diameters</u>
	<u>Grains</u>	<u>Grammes</u>	<u>mm</u>
250 pruta	218-3/4	14.1	32.2
250 pruta (silver)	225	14.4	32.2
500 pruta (silver)	390	25.0	37.1

The particulars shown above for the 500 pruta are the correct ones. (Kadman, Haffner, and Bertram and Weber have 38 mm, and Haffner 25.5 g) (12).

The weights of the 25, 50, and 100 pruta coins are in the relation 1 : 2 : 4. The 250 pruta coins, which should have a weight of 10 times that of the 25 pruta coins, was struck in the relation 1 : 5. The silver coins were probably struck in the relation 1 : 1-3/4.

1, 5, 10 pruta coins have plain edges, while all other denominations have reeded edges.

All denominations of the 5709 pruta series, with the exception of the 100 pruta coin and the silver coins, exist with and without a pearl below the bottom link on the reverse of the coins. Early mintings



from the working dies have a line on the bottom link. The pearl appears to be a distinguishing mark between the mintings of the King's Norton mint (with pearl) and the Heaton mintings, according to Kadman's inquiries in about 1960 (13). In the later part of the 1960's, Sylvia Haffner obtained the following reply from Mr. J. Poole, Manager of the Imperial Metal Industries (Kynoch) Ltd. (14):

".... The pearl was not intended as a mintmark, but was part of the artist's design. The master dies were made by Pinches of London, with the working dies produced both at the ICI and MBL mints. The MBL mint has stated categorically that none of the coins they minted possessed a pearl mark. The pearl mark came into existence at the ICI mint after the completion of the 100 Pruta and after part of the 50 Pruta coins were struck. We have no way of knowing which coins were struck at the ICI mint with dies containing the 'pearl marks' as the working dies were destroyed and the master dies sent to Israel.

"Therefore, of the mintage figures supplied by the ICI mint, it would be impossible to state how many of these coins contained the 'pearl mark' and how many did not"

The above letter is not clear. If the artist's design contained the pearl, it seems not to have been transferred to the master dies, otherwise it would also appear on the 100 pruta coins. It should also always be in the same position in relation to the bottom link of the



Pearl close to bottom link



Pearl far from bottom link



Pearl below bottom link off-center

reverse. However, this is not the case, as shown here in the illustration of three different 10 pruta coins. In Israel, the pearl is usually called a dot.

Pinches are the well known medallists John Pinches Ltd., London. ICI is the King's Norton mint, MBL is the Heaton mint.

Inasmuch as the 50 pruta coin was the first coin of the series placed into circulation, it is clear that the King's Norton mint struck this coin without the pearl as well as the Heaton mint. The dates of issue of the coins show that only at the end of 1949 further denominations, besides the 50 and 100 pruta coins, were placed into circulation. It is therefore most likely that the pearl was introduced in the later part of 1949. The 50 pruta coin with pearl is a very scarce coin in Israel, even in circulated condition. All specimens examined by this writer have a somewhat polished appearance. It is therefore possible that only the proof coins of the 50 pruta coin exist with the pearl. Unless particulars of the shipments of the coins to Israel can be found, the question will have to be held in abeyance. Summing up the situation in respect of the 50 and 100 pruta coins we have:

50 pruta without pearl, both King's Norton and Heaton mints.

50 pruta with pearl, King's Norton mint.

100 pruta without pearl, both King's Norton and Heaton mints.

A close examination of uncirculated 50 and 100 pruta coins reveals that both can be found with characteristics indicating clearly two different mintings. Considering the 50 pruta coin with pearl as showing the particulars of the King's Norton mint, the differences observed are:



*50 Pruta with pearl
Low relief, King's Norton*



*50 Pruta without pearl
Low relief, King's Norton*

King's Norton: Low relief, low rim. The edge reeding appears to be somewhat irregular, i.e. broad and narrow ridges.



*50 Pruta without pearl
High relief, Heaton*

Heaton: High relief, high rim. The reading appears to be uniform, composed of broad ridges. It is possible that the diameter is larger by less than 0.1 mm, due to the higher pressure of the coining press causing the higher relief.



100 Pruta, Low relief, King's Norton 100 Pruta, High Relief, Heaton



*250 Pruta, Cu-Ni, with pearl
Low relief, King's Norton*

*250 Pruta, Cu-Ni, without pearl
High relief, Heaton*

Similar characteristics can be found on all other denomination of the 5709 series, i.e. King's Norton mintings with pearl, Heaton without.



250 Pruta, Silver, with H Mintmark

The 250 Pruta in silver has the Heaton mintmark H.

Particulars of the design of the coins and other details may be found in the catalogs (15).

Notes

- (1) *British Commonwealth Coins*. 3rd ed. Winnipeg, Canada 1971.
- (2) Dennis R. Cooper. *The Art and Craft of Coinmaking*. London 1988, p. 231.
- (3) These dates were published for the first time in the 2nd edition of the catalog of the Bank of Israel, published in September 1990, based on a communication by this writer.
- (4) Sylvia Haffner. *The History of Modern Israel's Money 1917-1970*. 2nd ed. Tarzana, Calif. 1970.
Sylvia Haffner-Magnus. *Israel's Money and Medals*. 4th ed. 1988.
- (5) James O. Sweeny. *A Numismatic History of the Birmingham Mint*. Birmingham 1981. pp.87, 174-175.
- (6) The composition is the one of the British bronze coinage, vide William Alexander - Arthur Street. *Metals in the Service of Man*. Penguin Books, 1944. Revised ed. 1964, p.223. Also Sweeny, l.c., Haffner, l.c. has 95% copper, 3% tin, 2% zinc. No such bronze was used in Great Britain or the British Empire.
- (7) Cooper, l.c. p.223.
- (8) Sweeny, l.c. p.87. Haffner's composition has not been traced anywhere. It cannot be said if the alloy of 50% silver, 37½% copper, 12½% nickel has ever been produced.
- (9) Leo Kadman. *Israel's Money*. 2nd ed. Tel-Aviv - Jerusalem 1963.
- (10) Fred Bertram and Robert Weber. *Israel's 20 Year Catalog of Coins and Currency*. New York 1968.
- (11) Cooper, l.c. p.257.
- (12) First published based on a communication by this writer vide note 3 above.
- (13) Kadman, l.c. p.3.
- (14) Haffner, l.c. p.10 or p.P-3.
- (15) See notes 4, 9 and 10 above.

AN INTRODUCTION TO BYZANTINE COINAGE

R. R. Kutcher, Lincoln, Nebraska, NI #1289

NO. 73 - THE EMPIRE OF NICAIA

THEODORE I, COMNENUS LASCARIS (1206-1222)

The Empire of Nicaea, more than any of the other states which emerged from the ruins of the Byzantine Empire, set before it as a national aspiration the recovery and restoration of the imperial heritage that was lost to the Latin invaders. Thus the rulers of Nicaea steadily pursued this aim until its ultimate realization in 1261. The first Emperor, Theodore Comnenus Lascaris, was an able and very ambitious noble, who married Anna, the daughter of Emperor Alexius III and of Euphrosyne. Just before the fall of Constantinople, Theodore fled to Nicaea with his wife and three daughters. However, he himself was refused asylum, but he was successful in securing this refuge for his wife and daughters.

Theodore immediately went to Persia, where he was able to raise a small army. He then returned to Nicaea and made himself Governor, but in the name of his father-in-law Alexius. Tiring of this subservience after two years, he caused himself to be crowned Emperor in 1208. Alexius was of course upset with this turn of events, and enlisted the assistance of the Sultan of Iconium to help him secure this new throne which his son-in-law had established. The Turks met with disaster in their attempt, and Alexius found himself constrained in the end of his days in one of his own monasteries. The Empress Anna had died rather early in her husband's reign, and Theodore married Philippa, the daughter of the King of Armenia, by who he had a son, Constantine. When he died in 1222, Theodore left his throne, it seems, to his son-in-law, John Ducas Vatatzes.

The Coinage

A/ Hyperpyron

Mint of Nicaea or Magnesia



Obv. KERO HΘEI . IC XC in field.

Christ, bearded and nimbed, wearing tunic and colobion, seated upon throne without back; right hand raised in benediction, holds Gospels in left.

Rev. (ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ ΚΟΜΝΗΝΟΣ ?) in two columnar groups.

Full-length figure of emperor wearing stemma, divitision, and chlamys; holds in right hand labarum-headed scepter, and in left, globus cruciger. *Manus Dei* in upper right field.

AR Trachy

Mint of Magnesia

Type A

Obv. IC XC in upper field.

Christ, bearded and nimbate, wearing tunic and colobion, seated upon throne without back; holds Gospels in left hand.

Rev. ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟC ΔΕC ΠΟΤ Ο, ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟC—or var.

Full-length figure of emperor on left, and of St. Theodore, bearded and nimbate, holding between them long shaft, at the head of which a star. Emperor wears stemma, divitision, jewelled loros of simplified type, and sagion; holds sheathed sword, point downward, in right hand. Saint wears short military tunic, breastplate, and sagion; holds sheathed sword point downward, in left hand.



Type A

Type B

Type B

Obv. IC XC Ο ΕΜΜΑΝΥΗΛ in two columnar groups.

Bust of Christ Emmanuel, beardless and nimbate, wearing tunic and colobion; holds scroll in left hand.

Rev. ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟC ΔΕC Ο, ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟC—or var.

Full-length figure of emperor on left, and of St. Theodore, bearded and nimbate, holding between them patriarchal cross on long shaft, at the base of which three steps. Emperor wears stemma, divitision, and chlamys; holds sheathed sword, point downward, in right hand. Saint wears short military tunic, breastplate, and sagion; holds sheathed sword, point downward, in left hand.

Bill. Trachy

Mint of Nicaea

First coinage

Obv. MP ΘV in field.

Virgin nimbate, wearing tunic and maphorion, seated upon throne without back; holds beardless, nimbate head of Christ on breast.

Rev. ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟC ΘΘΕΟΔΩΡΟC—or var.

Full-length figure of emperor on left, and of St. Theodore, bearded and nimbate, holding between them patriarchal cross on long shaft. Emperor

wears stemma, divitision, collar-piece, and panelled loros of simplified type; holds labarum-headed scepter in right hand. Saint wears short military tunic and breastplate; holds spear in left hand, resting over shoulder.



First coinage

Second coinage

Second coinage

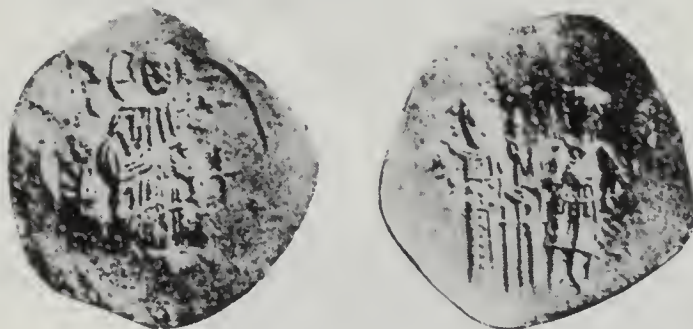
Obv. IC XC in field.

Christ, bearded and nimbate, wearing tunic and colobion, seated upon throne without back; holds Gospels in left hand. Asterisk above cushion of throne, on either side.

Rev. ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ ΔΕΣΠΟΤΗΣ ΚΟΜΝΗΝΟΣ Ο ΛΑΚΚΑΡΗΣ in two columnar groups.

Full-length figure of emperor wearing stemma, divitision, and chlamys; holds in right hand scepter cruciger, and in left, anexikakia. Asterisk frequently on left, or right, or both, of inside of chlamys as it hangs from emperor's arms.

Mint of Magnesia



Type A

Obv. IC XC in field.

Full-length figure of Christ, bearded and nimbate, wearing tunic and colobion; holds Gospels in left hand.

Rev. (ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ ?)

Full-length figure of emperor on left, and of St. Theodore, bearded and nimbate, holding between them labarum on long shaft. Emperor wears stemma, divitision, collar-piece, and jewelled loros of simplified type; holds in right hand anexikakia, sword hangs point downward to left of waist. Saint wears short military tunic and breastplate; holds spear in left hand, resting over shoulder, sword hangs point downward to right of waist.

Type B (As A type B)

Obv. IC XC O EMMANVHA in two columnar groups.

Bust of Christ Emmanuel, beardless and nimbate, wearing tunic and colobion; holds scroll in left hand.

Rev. (ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ ΘΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ ?)

Full-length figure of emperor on left, and of St. Theodore, bearded and nimbate, holding between them patriarchal cross on long shaft, at the base of which three steps. Emperor wears stemma, divitision, and chlamys; holds sheathed sword, point downward, in right hand. Saint wears short military tunic, breastplate, and sagion; holds sheathed sword, point downward, in left hand.



Type B

Type C

Type C

Obv. IC XC O EMMANVHA in two columnar groups.

Bust of Christ Emmanuel, beardless and nimbate, wearing tunic and colobion; holds scroll in left hand.

Rev. (ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ ΘΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ ?)

Full-length figure of emperor on left, and of St. Theodore, bearded and nimbate, standing on dais, holding between them labarum(?) on long shaft. Emperor wears stemma, divitision, and chlamys; holds in right hand labarum-headed scepter. Saint wears short military tunic and breastplate; holds spear in left hand, resting over shoulder.

SPADE GUINEA

"SPADE GUINEA. An English gold coin, value 21s., minted 1787-1799, so called because it bears a shield shaped like the spade on playing-cards on the reverse. The legend is M. B. F. ET. H. REX. F. D. B. ET. L. D. S. R. I. A. T. ET. E. - Magnae Britannies, Franciae, et Hiberniae Rex; Fidei Defensor; Brunsvicensis et Lunenburgensis Dux; Sacri Romani Imperii Archi Thesaurarius et Elector."

Taken from 1055 *Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase & Fable* 1981.

(Submitted by Tutivillus)

TWO OTTOMAN SILVER MEDALS:

THE ARMISTICE OF THE GRECO-TURKISH WAR MEDAL 1897 & THE FLEET DONATION MEDAL 1912/3

Raymond J. Hébert

1. THE ARMISTICE OF THE GRECO-TURKISH WAR MEDAL 1897

As a result of the massing of Greek troops on the Macedonian frontier and attacks by the bands of the *Ethnike Hetairia*, war broke out between Greece and the Ottoman Turks on April 17, 1897. Had Great Britain taken part in a blockade of Volo, these preparations by the Greeks would have been impossible. On April 30, a Russo-Austrian agreement was concluded during a visit to St. Petersburg by the Austrian emperor Franz Joseph and the Russian minister Goluchowski. Russia and Austria agreed to keep the *status quo* if possible, but if not, to work for a division of the area among the Balkan states, to which was to be added an Albanian state. This join action prevented Serbia and Bulgaria from aligning themselves with Greece which they were prepared to do. After a series of decisive defeats by the Turks including the battle of Domeke, the Greeks appealed to the powers on May 10. They agreed in advance to accept the decision of the powers. An armistice was arranged on May 19, and a peace settlement was signed on September 18. Turkey was allowed only a small modification of its frontier in its favor, and an indemnity.

A medal was awarded to the families of Turkish survivors and to the officers and men who served in that war. According to Gozalan (1), the reason this medal has not attracted the attention of collectors and numismatists may be that "the rumors that the circulation of this medallion was too high and that it was distributed to all who did not necessarily serve at the war, even to the ones who did not have any relation with it in following years."

The obverse of the medal depicts the *toughra* of Abdul Hamid II, 1876-1909 = 1293-1327 A.H., within a wreath at the knot of which is a flower.



The reverse has the legend YUNAN MUHAREBESI YEVM PAZAR 23 ZI-L-QA'DE / SENE 1314, meaning "Greek War the Day of Sunday May 19, the year 1896". The piece is holed for hanging.

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- (1) Siyret Gozalan, "1314 Yunan Harbi Madalyasi," *A Festschrift Presented to Ibrahim Artuk on the Occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Turkish Numismatic Society*. Istanbul 1988, pp. 141-146. The piece appears in Cem Sultan' catalogue as #4412.

2. THE FLEET DONATION MEDAL 1912/3 (Pere #1138)

You will undoubtedly remember that about this time the nations of Europe were arming themselves for what would be called the First World War (The assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand at Sarajevo was on June 28, 1914). Turkey was no exception. Italy had bombarded the Dardanelles on April 18, 1912 whereupon the Turks closed the Straits. The outbreak of the Tripolitan War between Turkey and Italy had occurred on September 28, 1911. The Straits were not reopened until May 4 of 1912 only after vigorous protests from Russia and the other powers. Bulgaria and Serbia took advantage of the Tripolitan War which was coming to an end and decided for war against Turkey using the demand for reforms in Macedonia made by Austria in August of 1912 merely as an excuse. On September 25, 1912, the Turks announced manoeuvres to be held at Adrianople, and on October 8, Montenegro declared war on Turkey. Ten days later the First Balkan War between Bulgaria, Serbia, and Greece on one hand, and Turkey on the other, broke out. On December 3, an armistice between Turkey, Bulgaria, and Serbia (Greece did not join in) took place. The Turks were induced to leave Adrianople by the powers. As a result of such concessions made by the Ottoman government, a *coup d'etat* took place on January 23, 1913 at Constantinople, and Kamil Pasha fell to be replaced by Enver Bey and the extreme nationalists. The First Balkan War resumed on February 3, 1913 lasting until April 16 when an armistice was signed between the Bulgarians and Turks and also accepted by the other belligerents. The First Balkan War was ended by the Treaty of London on May 30, 1913, but a Second Balkan War broke out June 29 lasting until July 30. On September 29, 1913 took place the Treaty of Constantinople between Bulgaria and Turkey in which Turkey recovered Adrianople. These then were the major events concerning Turkey for the period in question - December 1912 - November 1913.

The heated kettle finally boiled over. World War I erupted. Unfortunately, the Ottoman Empire chose to side with the side which was to lose, the Triple Alliance. German officers had been serving as technical representatives in an effort to upgrade the Ottoman Navy. In 1914 on November 4, Russia and Serbia declared war on Turkey; in 1915 on August 21, Italy declared war on Turkey; in 1917 on April 23, Turkey severed relations with the United States, and on June 17, Greece declared war on Turkey.

The obverse of this medal depicts the *toughra* of Sultan Mehmed V (Re-Shad), 1909-1918 - 1327-1336 H., superimposed on a sun rising from the ocean. On the lower part of the sun is the date 1331 which corresponds to December 11, 1912 - November 30, 1913. Unfortunately for

the Ottoman Empire, this period was to be their setting sun.



The reverse shows the former German battle-cruiser "Yavuz" steaming left down the Bosphorus with the mosques of Istanbul showing at the left. Beneath in a scroll are the words DONANMA I'ANE MADALYASI, meaning "Fleet Donation Medal". Individuals who made donations for the refitting of this ship were recipients of this medal.

According to a copy of *Jane's Fighting Ships* of the 40s, the *Goeben* was laid down in August 1909 by Blohm & Voss, Hamburg, under the 1909 German Navy Program as a sister to the *Moltke*. She was completed in July of 1912 and transferred to the Turkish Navy in 1914 and renamed the *Yavuz*. She was twice mined during World War I striking

YAVUZ (ex-German *Goeben*,) (Blohm & Voss, March, 1911).

Standard Displacement, 23,100 tons. Complement, 1,300 (as Flagship).

Length (w.l.), 610½ feet. Beam, 96 ft. 10 in. Draught (max. load), 26 ft. 11 in.

Guns:

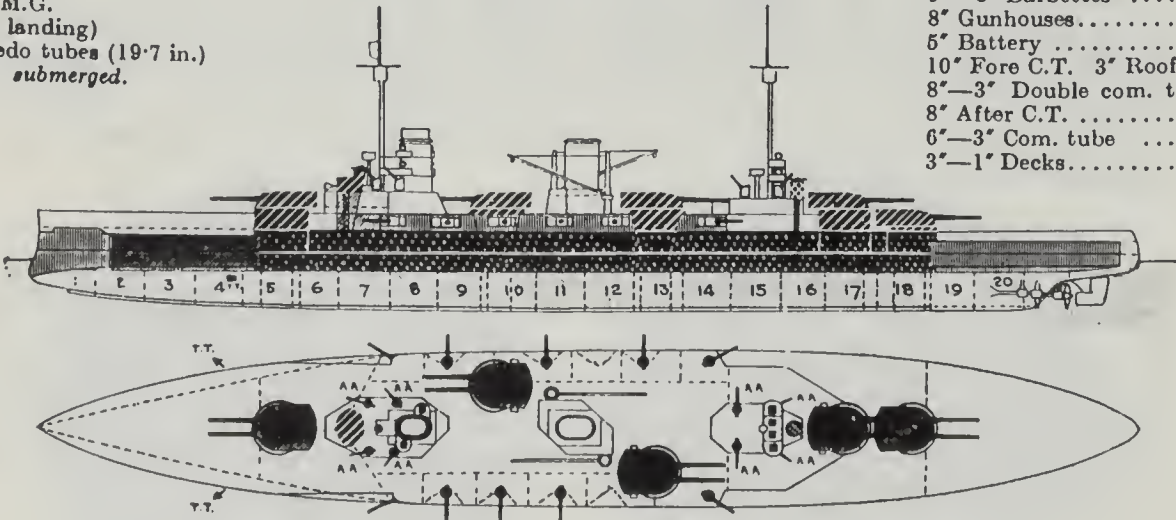
- 10—11 in. 50 cal.
- 10—5.9 in. 45 cal.
- 8—3.5 inch A.A.
- 12—40 mm. A.A.
- 4 M.G.
- (1 landing)
- Torpedo tubes (19.7 in.)
- 2 submerged.

Anti-Torp. Pro. :—

- 2"—1" deep H.T. Steel B.H., between extreme
- barbettes : Minute internal subdivision.

Armour (Krupp) :

- 10½" Belt (amidships) tapers to 6" at top and 5" below
- 3½" Belt (bow and stern)
- 9"—8" Barbettes
- 8" Gunhouses.....
- 5" Battery
- 10" Fore C.T. 3" Roof ..
- 8"—3" Double com. tube
- 8" After C.T.
- 6"—3" Com. tube
- 3"—1" Decks.....



Machinery : Parsons turbine, 4 shaft, direct drive. Boilers : 24 Schulz-Thornycroft (German "Marine Type.") Designed H.P. : nominally 52,000 = 25.5 kts. Coal : normal about 1,000 tons ; maximum 3,050 tons + 200 tons oil.

five mines in all. A contract was signed in December 1926 with Chantiers de St. Nazaire (Penhoet) for the repair and refitting of this battle-cruiser at Izmit; however, the work was considerably delayed because the floating dock was unable to take her weight so that completion was not reached until 1930. She was refitted again in 1938 and was still in use in the 50s during my stay in Turkey.

RARE DOUBLE TALER OF DEVENTER



An interesting rare Double Taler was struck in 1609 in Deventer (Davontvr on the coin), the Netherlands. The obverse has a standing warrior in armor and is holding a banner and is leaning on a shield. The reverse has a heraldic eagle with an orb in one talon and a bunch of arrows in the other.

(Submitted by R. R. Kutcher)

NUMISMATIC EXTRACTS FROM SELECTED LITERATURE

"Along with the spades, the knife coinage (*tao*) came into use, chiefly in the rich mercantile state of Ch'i and other states on the Shantung peninsula, in the seventh century B.C. or even earlier. At first they bore much resemblance to the real tool ('early knives'), but then they spread toward the north and north-west, taking the place of the spades in that region and losing the characteristics of a tool to assume those of a currency ('late knives'). Two main types are extant. The Ch'i knives were guaranteed (even if not actually minted) by the state, and bore a stamp indicating them as such."

Taken from p. 401-2, *History of Man-kind* Volume 2 The Ancient World, by Luigi Pareti, Paolo Brezzi and Luciano Petech. (New York: Harper & Row, Publishers 1965).

(Submitted by R. J. Hébert)

A SEARCH FOR MILITARY CHITS

Granvyl G. Hulse, Jr. (NI Book Librarian)

From time to time the NI Library gets involved in helping to research subjects that are not readily available to the casual reader. In these cases we must either turn to obscure or trial manuscripts, or to collectors that might have a passing interest in the subject, but have never fully developed their own line of research. It is such a field that I wish to bring to the attention of NI members.

John Kallman, PSC Box 3467, APO San Francisco, CA 96519, is interested in pursuing the study and recording of military chits. These are money substitutes used by military clubs, and other service organizations, related to the military as both a means of credit as well as small change when Military Payment Certificates were in use. (Or after MPC in some special instances.)

In most cases they were of short term use until some form of metal token could be obtained. They usually appeared in book form sold in lots of \$2, \$5, \$10, and higher total amounts. Each "page" would have a number of chits in various denominations from 5 cents up and the bearer, bartender, or waiter would tear off the total amount necessary to pay the bill.

Generally each chit would have, in addition to its amount, the name of the club, and the phrase "Not good if detached."

The information which John Kallman is interested in would be ideally, a copy of the chit with the color of the chit noted next to it. If this is not possible, a description of the chit to include inscription, color, and serial number, and cancellation, if any. An example of the description would read as follows for a 25 cent chip:

STEWART FIELD
OFFICER'S MESS
(Not good if detached)

The above chit is green cardboard with four digit serial number in red ink. No cancellation. 25 cent denomination on far left in separate box with US above and CENTS below in inverted chevron. Void (not good if detached) in separate box along bottom below serial number.

For the books, John would like both a copy of the frontcover as well as a copy of each different chit enclosed within the book. He also needs to know how many of each type chit was in the book. An example of the description would read as follows for the book:

THE COUPONS IN THIS BOOK ARE	VOID AFTER	\$2.00
GOOD AT THEIR FACE VALUE	31 Dec, 1968	
CA MAU MESS ASSOCIATION		
APO San Francisco 96363		

Issued to
Countersigned by
Date (No) 1189
Not Transferable - Not Good if Detached

Orange book, printed by Klesy-Tieneyer Coupon, Cin 0. 45244
Inside, one whitepage as follows:

\$2.00	(No)	1189
CHECK ONE	Charge	Cash
Name		
Date	196	Organization.....

6 pages of chits, two pages of 10 cent chits with 5 chits per page. 4 pages of 5 cent chits with 5 chits per page, and then a description of both the 5 cent and 10 cent chit. (As you can see, in this case, if a copy is enclosed with the color noted next ot it, it would save a lot of writing.)

In addition to the data required on the chit, John also needs to know information on printing, distribution, accounting, etc. This information is needed for background only and to provide the reader with a sense of time used as well as rarity. While his current speciality is U.S. chits used in the Far East, he would also like information on any U.S. chits, and chits produced for POW camps within the U.S. and for use on buses as well.

The best general reference on this subject to date is "A Trial Listing of Military Chits" by Mrs. Ruth W. Hill.

When John first sent in this request to the NI Library I went into the attic where I keep my memorabilia in hopes that I might discover some that I had used over the years that I travelled in governmental service. Alas, I came up empty. In retrospect, I think that I drank them all up in the last night before they poured me on the plane. John hopes that NI members will have been less inclined and will have retained some as keepsakes of a more exuberant period in their lives. While John has made mention of one series that was apparently commercially printed, my mind again goes back to my salad days when our club on Okinawa printed their own on a local mimeograph machine. These were quite plain, but they served their purpose at the time.

Please check your scrapbooks, old files, and the junk boxes of your ex-military neighbors and help John assemble a master listing of an article that at one time was very much a part of our every day life. You might also write him if you know of any other preliminary works on this subject, or if you, yourself, have jotted down notes on this series of American "notgeld".

"ANGEL. An English gold coin copied from the French *ange* and minted from 1465 to the reign of Charles I. It was to replace the NOBLE and was first called *angel noble*. Values at 6s. 8d. and later at 10s., it bore the figure of the archangel Michael slaying the dragon, and was the coin presented to persons touched for the KING'S EVIL."

Taken from 36, *Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase & Fable* 1981.

(Submitted by Tutivillus)

NUMISMATIC EXTRACTS FROM SELECTED LITERATURE

Niebuhr's travels in Yeman in AD 1762 AH 1176

"On reaching Sana the travellers were not allowed to enter the city, but conducted to an unfurnished house without the walls, where they were ordered to wait two days in entire seclusion, until they could be received by the Imam. During this time they were not allowed to be visited by anyone. Carsten Niebuhr, a native of Hanover and a civil engineer, thus describes their interview, which took place on the third day:

'The hall of audience was a spacious square chamber, having an arched roof. In the middle was a large basin, with some jets d'eau, rising fourteen feet high. Behind the basin, and near the throne, were large benches, each a foot and a half high; upon the throne was a space covered with silken stuff, on which, as well as on both sides of it, lay large cushions. The Imam sat between the cushions, with his legs crossed in the Eastern fashion; his gown was of a bright green color, and had large sleeves. Upon each side of his breast was a rich filleting of gold lace, and on his head he wore a great white turban. His sons sat on his right hand, and his brothers on the left. Opposite to them, on the highest of the two benches, sat the Vizier, and our place was on the lower bench.

'We were first led up to the Imam, and were permitted to kiss both the back and the palm of his hand, as well as the hem of his robe... As each of us touched the Imam's hand a herald still proclaimed, 'God preserve the Imam!' and all who were present repeated these words after him... The Imam told us we were welcome to his dominions, and might stay as long as we pleased. After our return home he sent to each of us a small purse containing ninety-nine KOMASSIS, two and thirty of which make a crown. This piece of civility might, perhaps, appear no compliment to a traveller's delicacy. But, when it is considered that a stranger, unacquainted with the value of the money of the country, obliged to pay each day for his provisions, is in danger of being imposed upon by the money-changers, this care of providing us with small money will appear to have been sufficiently obliging.'"

Taken from *TRAVELS IN ARABIA*,
by Bayard Taylor, N.Y. 1893, pp24-25.

KOMASSIS - (Kommassi or Commassee). A former base silver coin of Arabia, principally used in the coffee trade of Mocha, (Yemen) and computed at one sixtieth of the Spanish Dollar. It was later struck in copper and its value depreciated; three hundred and fifty to five hundred being an equivalent of the Spanish or Levant (Maria Theresa Thaler of 1780) Dollars. *DICTIONARY OF NUMISMATIC NAMES*, by Albert R. Frey, ANS 1917, Reprint 1947, pp.124.

(Submitted by Roger deWardt Lane)

BOOK NEWS & REVIEWS

HISTORY OF CURRENCY IN THE SULTANATE OF OMAN. By Robert E. D-Doran. 143 pages, profusely illustrated in color and black and white. Printed on fine art paper and cloth bound. 9 3/4 x 12 inches. Published by the Central Bank of Oman, 1990. Available from Numismata Orientalia, P.O. Box 212, Tenafly, N.J. 07670. Price is \$75.00.

There are ten chapters in this superb volume in Arabic with a parallel text in English, describing and illustrating the coinage of this remote country from the earliest Islamic period: Ummayyad dirhams and copper coins of the Abbasids. Later coins of the Saffarids and Amirs (many from the famous Sinaw hoard), and those of the Wajihids, Buwahids, and Mukramids during the period 816-1107 A.D. (201-500H).

A chapter is devoted to the changing routes and the predominance of Egyptian coinage in the region up to 1204 A.D., followed by the rise of the Qalhati Sultans of Hormuz and the Rasulids of Dhofar and their commercial importance in the Gulf up to 1398 A.D.

The coinage of Hormuz, the coming of the Portuguese, and the introduction of European coins into Arabia and the growing preference for European coinage in Oman to 1592 A.D. to the beginnings of Oman's national revival is well-documented.

The rise of the Al Bu Said dynasty with descriptions of the coins circulating in period up to 1786 A.D. with notes on the Maria Theresa Taler, the Iranian and Indian coins in Oman, as well as those of the Sultanate of Zanzibar together with the revival of the Muscat and Oman coinage is accurately portrayed.

A final chapter describes the coinage and paper money of the Sultan Qaboos bin Said, 1970-1990 A.D.

There is an index of mints and dates, and a bibliography.

There are excellent enlargements of the coin photographs of the early coinage to illustrate legends, but the machine struck coins are shown in actual size, and the banknotes in 3/4 size.

This is a magnificent book to own and for reference to the early coinage of this remote country which had the distinction of possessing the oldest Islamic mint in the Arabian Peninsula.

Reviewed by Kenneth MacKenzie.

MEMBER NOTICE PAGE

Phil Wing, P. O. Drawer 58204, Cincinnati, OH 45258: British Coins Wanted - All Hammered silver and gold coins Fine or Better. All silver coins 1660-1760 VF or better. All gold Guineas VF or better. Will buy for cash or trade for other coins. Please send or write.

John L. Pieratt, 2635 S. Hydraulic, 32C, Wichita, KS 67216: More information, the saga goes on, the French Indo China silver Piastre 1890, so called key of the series. Is it for investment? Is it really rare? Always thought no more than two dozen existed in the world. During the year 1990, there were thirteen 1890 piastres on the market for sale. So far in 1991 none have been reported on dealer lists, auction houses. Most are floating around Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore. Are there fakes popping up on the market to be passed off as real? Check out the 1890 story in the ANA and NI Libraries for your input.

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MOORCROFT'S AND TREBECK'S NUMISMATIC COMMENTS OF 1819-1825

Silver is also imported in boat shaped lumps, called *yambos* (1), stamped with Chinese characters, each lump weighing about one hundred and sixty *rupees* (2), and passing in the market for one hundred and eighty.

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- (1) Frey, *A Dictionary of Numismatic Names*, p. 262, called the *Yamba* (sic) the largest of the coins of Turkestan. See also pp. 519-521, Mitchiner, *Non-Islamic States & Western Colonies* for more information on the Boar ("Slipper") Sycees.
 - (2) The *rupee* for this period weighed about 11.1 grams, so that these boat-shaped *yambus* weighed about 1,776 grams.

Taken from p. 356, part I, William Moorcroft and George Trebeck, *Travels in the Himalayan Provinces of Hindustan and the Panjab; in Ladakh and Kashmir; in Peshawar, Kabul, Kunduz, and Bokhara*. Two volumes. New Delhi: Sagar Publications 1971 reprint.

(Submitted by R. J. Hébert)